

## Montreal had nothing on our Games



MONTREAL has not been the only Mecca of sport recently, and while the world and his wife have been glued to their television sets to watch the goings on at the Olympics there were tensions, tears and triumphs at the Spastics Games.

For instance there is Andrew Buntin, 21, of Scotland (left), the victor's smile on his face, holding aloft the Boreham Cup, the equivalent of a gold medal, as the competitor showing the greatest endeavour in the Northern Counties Games.

The cup was presented to him by Mr Geoffrey Arter, a director of Top Ten Promotions Ltd, and a trustee of the Good Neighbours Trust which sponsored the games, who said 'We choose Andrew because of his sheer guts, determination and enthusiasm.'

And winner of the Boreham Cup at the Southern Counties Games was Sarah Tomlin, aged 10, of Malvern, Worcestershire, who attends the Society's Craig-y-Parc school, near Cardiff. She received her trophy from Mr Douglas Arter Chairman of the Good Neighbours Trust, and they are pictured right.



## Sailing in safety

by the Editor

SITTING pretty in the Sailsafe seat invented by Emlyn Davies, right, is Ken Roberts, paraplegic chairman of the Steering Committee on Water Sports. And watching from the shore was Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

The demonstration of The Spastics Society's sailing boat, TSS 1, was on Datchet Reservoir which the Queen Mother had just officially opened and which is to be named after her. Also in the picture is John Holloway, Regional Amenities Officer of the North Thames Water Board.

Emlyn, is the Society's Senior Regional Officer for Wales and a keen yachtsman. It was his enthusiasm for sailing which led to him designing the Sailsafe seat so that the disabled can also share the thrills and excitements of this fast-growing sport.

## For heaven's sake give them the money...

IT seemed that everybody hated it. 'Unsound, unstable, unsafe and uncomfortable,' was a polite way of describing it. Countless reports and countless campaigns demanded that it should be scrapped. It was, everyone agreed, a horror. Nobody, surely, would ever mourn the passing of the invalid tricycle?

But when the Government announced the end of the road for the much abused 'trike,' a fuss broke out which, to those who didn't know what it was all about, became almost farcical.

To the general public who tend to get their news from the headlines rather than the grey words underneath, it appeared that suddenly the disabled drivers wanted to hang on to their trikes at all costs.

'Can't they make up their minds?' declared the exasperated. 'First they demand the trike must be axed, and when the Government agrees, they say they must keep the thing after all.'

That wasn't the real story. What the disabled drivers were up in arms about was that while the Government-issued trike was to be phased out over the next five years, it was not to be replaced by a decent adapted car, but by the £5 mobility allowance. Now anyone who drives will know

that while a fiver will buy about six gallons of petrol, it isn't enough to buy and run a car. What the protesters were seeking was not their trikes, which apart from their bad accident record, and the difficulties over repairs and maintenance, immediately label the driver as handicapped, but alternatives such as:

- A small car adapted for use by a disabled driver.
- A cash grant to buy a car of choice.
- A much-increased mobility allowance.

That is what they are fighting for. True, there have been some voices raised in defence of the trike. Either from desperate people who can't possibly afford to buy a car to replace their three-wheelers

when the five-year phasing out period ends and the spare parts finally run out, or from people who say they must keep their trikes because they can't drive ordinary cars.

But anything said for the trike is only clouding the

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## Why won't TV show disabled sports?

SIR Michael Swann, Chairman of the Governors of the BBC, has come under fire from Patrick Jenkin, MP, Opposition spokesman on Social Services, because of what Mr Jenkin claims is 'an act of moral cowardice' on the Corporation's part in not screening the Paraplegic Games to be held in Canada this month.

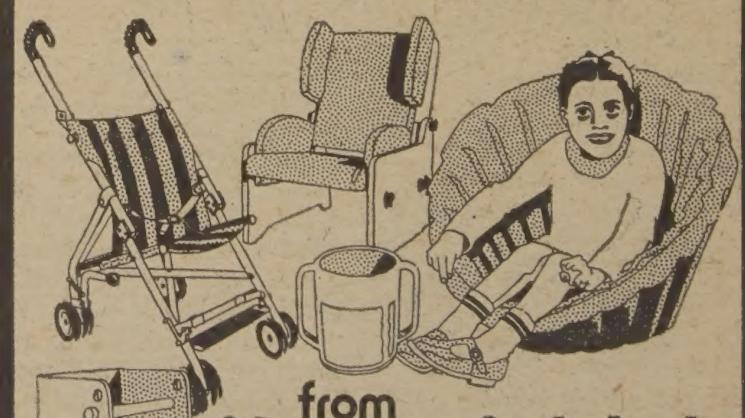
The first salvo in what could become a long drawn out battle came after Mr Jenkin attended a charity cricket match to raise funds for two of the competitors from this country. Mr Jenkin points out that despite severe disability, contestants take part in a wide variety of events and stresses: 'The Games are attended by paraplegics from all over the world and are enormously important as a demonstration to the disabled and to others of what can be attained by sheer will-power to overcome grave handicaps.'

Mr Jenkin goes on in a strongly worded open letter to state: 'I understand that these Games have been filmed for television in recent years and have in fact been shown in various countries of the world, and including the Eurovision network. I am told, however, that the BBC has always resolutely declined to present any showing of this event on television.'

'The reason, I understand, is that as a matter of policy the BBC believes that it is "distasteful" to show films of the disabled in action. Speaking as the Opposition spokesman on the Social Services, I

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# Paying the rent - just one red rose...



MRS J. WARD, left, owner of the building used as a day centre by Leicester and District Spastics Society, receives her annual 'rent,' a single red rose. Mrs Ward's late husband allowed the group to use the building for a token payment 20 years ago, and his widow has continued the tradition.

Making the presentation is Sharon Cory, right, 23, who handed over the first-ever rose, two decades ago. Centre is Matron, Miss Barbara Welch.

Sadly, this may be the last rent ceremony because the centre is not being used to its full capacity. The local authority is now providing more facilities for spastic children.

Picture by courtesy of Leicester Chronicle.

## Getting round and about St Paul's

THE Disablement in the City charity has issued a useful access guide for the disabled to the area round St Paul's Cathedral and the Paternoster shopping precinct.

The guide is based on a survey made jointly by pupils of the Richard Cledesley School for the physically handicapped, the City of London School, and the City of London School for Girls.

Access information is given about parking, shops, restaurants, pubs and coffee bars, as well as the Cathedral itself.

The guide is available from the City of London Information Centre, St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8BX (tel. 01-606 3030 extension 2236 or 2237).

## New ideas in gadgetry

HERE are just three of the ingenious gadgets which have been designed to make life easier for the disabled. They can be found — with many others — in the new catalogue 'Best Buys,' available from Newton Aids, Ltd, 2A Conway Street, London W1P 5HE (Tel: 01-580 4218).



Easy Feed

Once this 'Easy Feed' feeding aid has been clamped to the table, a severely handicapped person can eat from it without using his hands. He can rotate the plate with his head to reach food placed all around its edge, thus feeding himself with the minimum of assistance and relieving staff at meal times.

### Extracta Plug Handle

This plug handle made from strong styrene fits over the standard Crabtree three pin plug. It enables a person with poor finger grip to fit and remove a plug from its socket. The plug handle is easily removed for use elsewhere.

# The spending cuts begin to bite

CUTS — actual and projected — in local authority spending are already having an effect on welfare help to the handicapped, on those least able to carry an increased burden.

Probably well known by now is the Society's arrangement, some 10 or 11 years ago, with IBM United Kingdom Ltd, in which IBM re-conditions their older models, sells them to this Society at a nominal figure, and we, in turn, offer these at cost to

the handicapped, often providing their only means of communication. When it started no more than one or two typewriters a month were involved. Since then the demand has increased out of all proportion compared with the first pioneer venture.

While 10 years ago the Society was probably the only agency — certainly the biggest — IBM now receives many more requests, chiefly from educational authorities operating schools for the physically handicapped.

As a result, with demands far exceeding supply, IBM set up a community affairs section and introduced a system of yearly allocation. The Spastics

Society's 'ration' as it were, for this year, is 120 machines.

Now, with a cut-back in educational resources, requests for electric typewriters formerly met by schools are being presented to me! One instance, of many, may be cited.

A year or two ago, the father of a spastic girl took advantage of the Society's scheme and bought his daughter a re-conditioned IBM machine, and paid for typewriting lessons. The school she attends now says that Judith (this is not her name) ought to use a typewriter at school and has suggested that her father should take the IBM machine to the school on Monday morning and bring it back on Friday afternoon. Or — and this is the sting — buy another machine for Judith for use at

school. No school funds are available.

The IBM electric typewriter is a heavy and cumbersome machine, and the only possible means of transport — so said the father when he telephoned me — would be a taxi, which is expensive. Again, he asked, did I think that the machine would stand up to a twice weekly journey? I said it was not the sort of treatment that ought to be accorded a machine of this type.

Another letter was from the headmaster of a school for the physically handicapped. One boy's educational advancement would certainly be improved if he had a typewriter. The school had no money for this; could the Society help?

So it goes on — a sign of the times!

SUPPLIES OFFICER.

## The day they tore up £2,000



A £2,000 CONTRACT is torn up at the Stars Organisation for Spastics' Wakes Hall Centre, to the delight of residents and staff. The contract marked a loan to the centre from Colchester and District Spastics Society to help pay for new extensions. Now the group has decided that Wakes Hall can keep the money, as a gift.

Picture by courtesy of Evening Gazette, Colchester.

## £25,000 prize money for Ascot's charity meeting

THE world-famous Ascot racecourse will be the scene of a one-day charity meeting on September 24 in aid of the Riding for the Disabled Association. The six races will be sponsored by various firms who have donated a total of £25,400 in prize money. It is hoped that Princess Anne, Patron of Riding for the Disabled, will be able to attend.

At a House of Lords reception held to publicise the event, Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, President of the Association, spoke of how riding could benefit disabled people. Inspired by the example of Liz Hartell, a Scandinavian polio victim who won a silver medal for dressage in the 1952 Olympic Games, a group of enthusiasts formed the British Association in 1966 with 14 member groups. There are now 330 local branches helping 7,800 disabled children and adults.

The Duchess said that riding was a great morale-booster for severely disabled people as it gave them a mobility they had never known before. She told the story of a little spastic girl written off by doctors as a complete vegetable. At four years old she was taken to riding sessions with other handicapped children and just

dumped on the ground to watch.

One day the child was seen trying to climb up a pony's tail. From then on she joined the other children on horseback and her condition improved so rapidly that she was able to attend a normal school at the age of seven.

RDA aims to provide a similar incentive for many more children and adults to overcome their handicaps. Although the organisation depends largely on voluntary helpers (there are only six paid workers in all 330 groups), ponies and equipment are expensive. Therefore it is hoped that the charity day at Ascot will provide a vital boost for funds. Grandstand, Paddock and Tattersalls tickets will cost £2.50 and entrance to the silver ring will be £1. Boxes holding eight to 12 people are available for £100. Parties of 30 or more are offered special prices including lunch. Wheelchair users will be able to move about easily in the enclosures.

Further details are available from: Charity Day Director, Lieut-Colonel F. M. Beale, 26 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0DJ (tel 01-836 0461).

### His 1,100 sponsors

CHRISTOPHER Hill, a spastic member of the Watford group, Hertfordshire Spastics Association, raised £578 in the group's annual sponsored walk. He got 1,100 people to sponsor him for the 20-mile trek along canal towpaths.

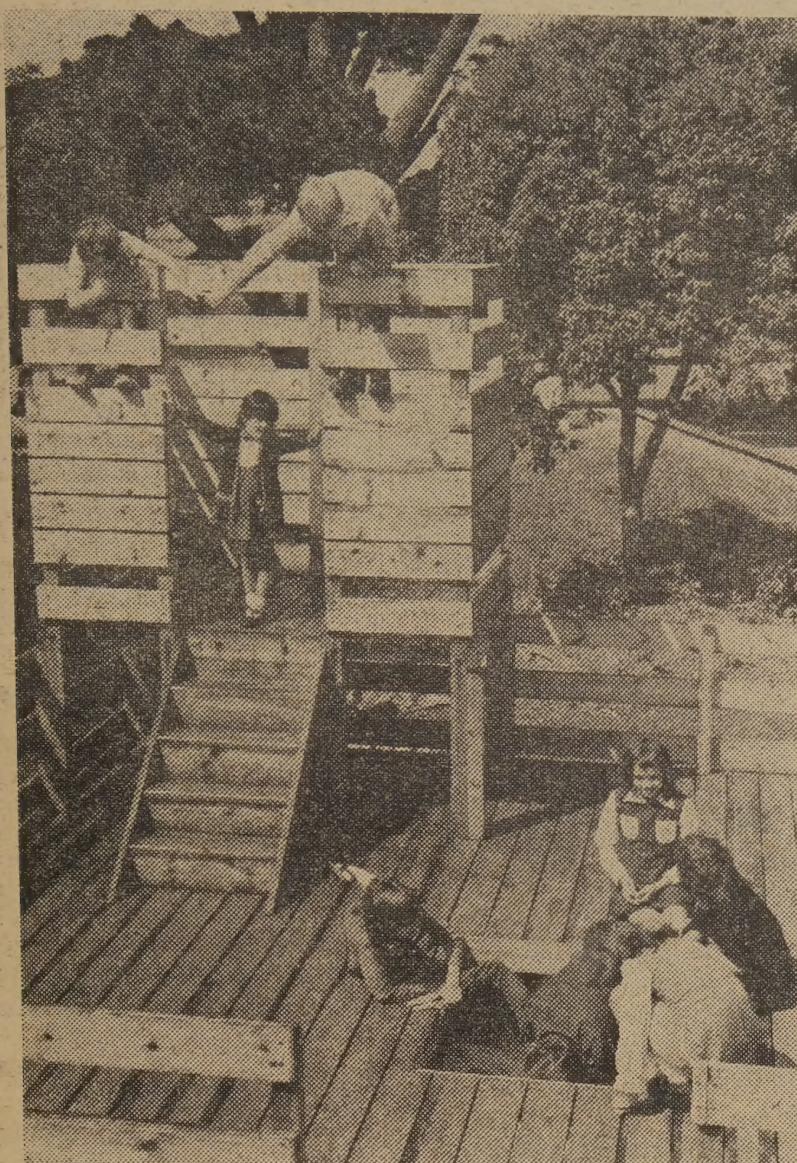
Last year Mr Hill, who works for a Kings Langley engineering firm, brought in £543 of the £2,000 total.

### RASPBERRY MOULD

(serves 4)

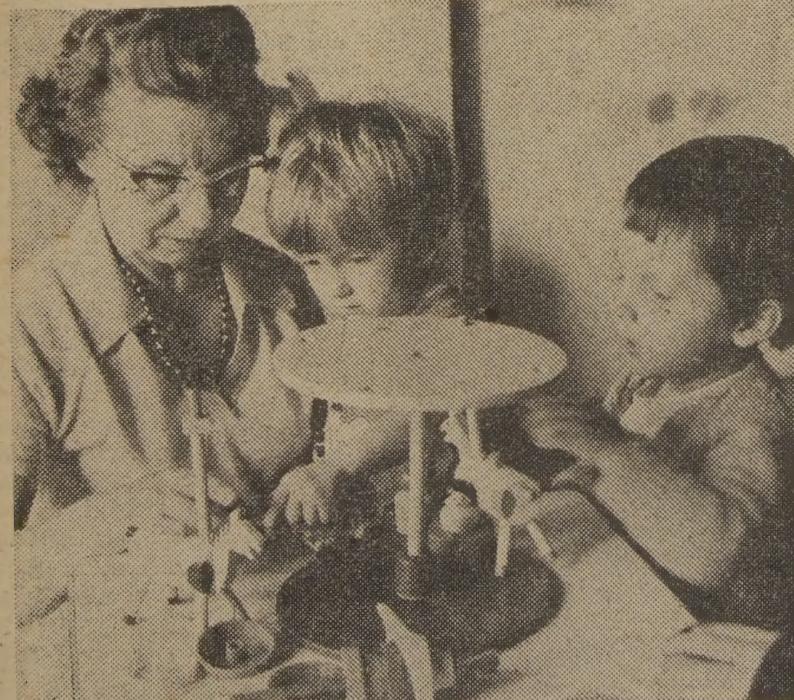
1lb ripe, or even over-ripe raspberries. Sugar to taste. Water. 1½oz cornflour. Pick out four or eight berries for decoration. Put remaining fruit into a pan with a little water, simmer over gentle heat until squashy and the juice has run freely. Sieve, make up to one pint with more water. Mix cornflour with a little of the fruit juice, add to the rest, bring to the boil, stirring, and cook, still stirring, for five minutes. Remove from heat, add sugar to taste. Pour into a mould (or four individual moulds), leave to set. Turn out and decorate with remaining berries and whipped cream if liked.

# Excellence—on the National Health



DURING their mid-morning break from the Honeylands schoolroom, older children make use of the adventure playground. The climbing equipment was provided by the local Round Table, an example of the co-operation that exists between the unit and voluntary organisations which realise what valuable help Honeylands offers to handicapped children and their parents in the area.

BELOW: Playgroup children Sarah Robins, Kevin Shute and Vanessa Dimble are intent on a game while Mrs Jean Preece, Nursery Nurse, acts as referee.



MRS Thora Burns, a voluntary helper in the playgroup section, builds a magic roundabout with Kevin Shute and Neil Cheeseman.

## Hospital takes the strain from parents

**HONEYLANDS** stands on the outskirts of Exeter — a solid country gentleman's house built in the days of large families. Entering the open front door and stepping over a busy toddler on the doormat, the visitors realises that this is still very much a family place. Colourful nursery transfers line the walls, the sound of children's voices echoes along the corridor and there are toys everywhere.

Adults greet each other in a friendly relaxed manner and because nobody wears uniform it is difficult at first to sort out mums from nurses, voluntary helpers from professionals, teachers from doctors — yes, doctors and nurses because, incredibly, this is a National Health Service hospital.

Honeylands was originally a children's TB sanatorium but since the fortunate decline in tuberculosis it gradually fell into disuse. In 1968 the building was handed over to Dr Frederick Brimblecombe, Consultant Paediatrician to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital — 'They just gave me the place and said I could

do what I liked with it.'

In eight years he has built up a pattern of care which must be quite exceptional in the hospital field. The official title of Honeylands is 'Family support and treatment unit for handicapped children,' but this conveys little idea of the wide range and flexibility of services offered to the physically, mentally and socially handicapped children of the area from birth to 11 years old.

The unit is in contact with about 150 children and the building can sleep 30. A few with no homes stay there all the time, others sleep from Monday to Friday and rejoin their families at weekends. Some stay over Saturday and Sunday, while brothers and sisters are home from school.

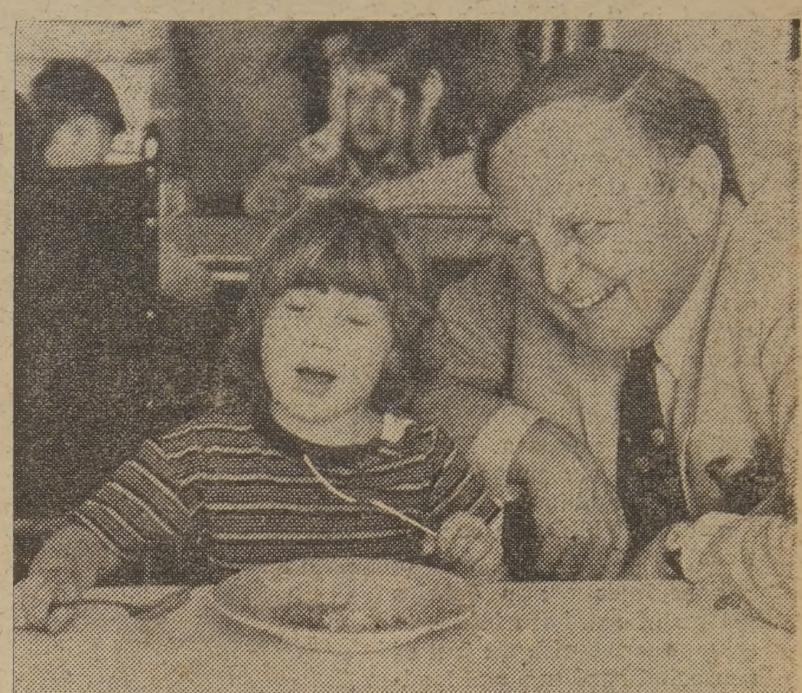
### Interesting

Commented a member of the nursing staff:

'It makes life interesting for us because we get a completely different group of children during the weekend from those who are here from Monday to Friday.'

There are also children staying regularly for a couple of nights each week, others making only occasional visits to give parents a break. Many come in only during the day to attend the playgroup.

A few beds are kept for emergency cases and perhaps the most important asset to



DR Frederick Brimblecombe, the Consultant Paediatrician in charge of Honeylands, shares a lunchtime joke with one of the children.

parents is the fact that children can be left at a moment's notice. 'We never turn a child away even if we have to put up camp beds,' I was told, while Dr Brimblecombe gave the example of a mother who rang up on Easter Monday to say that her own father had died in Newcastle.

'We were able to take the child in immediately and kept her for five days while the mother went up north to deal with funeral arrangements, knowing that her little girl was in capable hands.'

### Nervous

An unhandicapped child in a situation like this can usually be left with neighbours, but many people are nervous about looking after handicapped children and this imposes a tremendous strain on families. In some cases the mother's health will crack up and the child will have to be placed permanently in an institution.

Dr Brimblecombe believes that this could be avoided if parents all over the country had the support of places like Honeylands. He quoted a Government White Paper which said that out of every 100,000 in the population, 13 residential places will be needed for the handicapped under-15s. 'This could be reduced to only two if our methods were followed,' he said.

In some circles it is not considered advisable to mix physically, mentally and socially

handicapped children, but the system seems to work well at Honeylands, perhaps because the children are mostly under 11. Honeylands probably succeeds so well because of Dr Brimblecombe's warm personality which inspires an exceptional degree of loyalty in his staff. The emphasis is on teamwork — 'We can't afford to have job demarcation disputes here,' I was told.

For instance, Mrs Jean Garlick, the physiotherapist, sometimes finds herself acting as a social worker — mothers build up a close relationship with her simply because she is the member of staff whom they meet most regularly. They confide their worries and she can then pass on problems to Mrs Wordsworth, the official social worker. At the same time, Mrs Wordsworth sometimes finds herself answering queries about physiotherapy during chats with parents.

### Popping in

Nurses and nursery nurses will swap observations which might benefit children, while domestic staff will often stop to play with the babies during spare moments from their duties. Parents too, pop in and out of the building all the time — there are no limited visiting hours — and have an important say in planning their children's future.

The efforts of all those con-

### Turn to Page 4



MRS Gwen Channing takes time off from her domestic duties to play with eight-month-old Tracy Turner in the baby unit.



PAUL HODGE, aged four, who has brain damage, makes progress at a swimming lesson given by nurse Lillian Dicker. The recently-opened hydrotherapy pool is shared with Vranch House school and day centre next door, run by the Devon and Exeter Spastics Society. Money for the pool was raised by voluntary contributions.

# NHS unit helps parents and children

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cerned in the children's care are co-ordinated by Mrs Heather Rayner, the unit's psychologist, who organises a programme of 'fun therapy' or treatment through play geared to individual handicaps. If, for example, a child has poor speech and awkward hand movements, Mrs Rayner will devise a game involving the correct patterns of speech and motor co-ordination. Through playing with the child, parents at home and playgroup helpers and nursery nurses at Honeylands can encourage the proper movements and it will be more fun for the child than conventional exercises.

Honeylands also helps parents of new-born babies to come to terms with the fact of congenital handicap, and families no longer feel isolated as in the past. They receive psychological support by meeting other parents with the same problems and on the practical side the Honeylands staff can teach the necessary skills of looking after the handicapped and advise on what help is available from Social Services Departments.

'This type of support makes all the difference between a child's being able to live at home or being in permanent residential care,' said Dr Brimblecombe.

But some of the children have no homes to go to, not so



CHRISTOPHER VICKERY tries out the playgroup's pedal car, encouraged by Richard Oats, son of a helper, and psychology student, Naomi Dale, who has given up a month of her holiday to help out voluntarily at the unit.

much because parents have rejected them but because they've become separated after long periods in the acute hospital wards.

However, at least eight handicapped children have found foster homes over the last few years. Foster mothers include a voluntary worker, a

nurse and a cleaner, while others have nothing to do with the hospital. 'This wasn't something that we planned,' said the social worker, 'it just happened.'

Mrs Heather Burrows, a voluntary helper at Honeylands, has fostered Ben, a mongol baby, from the age of 3½ months. He is now 3½ and she also has an 11-year-old son of her own. Ben used to live with the Burrows family all the time, but now he comes back to Honeylands for most weekends.

'I wouldn't have considered having him without the support of Honeylands,' she told me. 'You can ring up at any time and there's always somebody there to help. And all the treatment facilities are on one spot — you don't have to travel round to separate clinics.'

After the playgroup stage, Dr Brimblecombe aims to send as many children as possible to normal schools — 'although we always welcome them back at weekends and holiday times.' The more severely handicapped spastic children often sleep at Honeylands while attending Vranch House school and day centre next door, run by the Devon and Exeter Spastics Society. The two centres share many facilities, including a well-equipped hydrotherapy pool.

Primary schooling for about 10 children is provided at Honeylands itself. Mrs Margaret Bovitt has been teaching there for 27 years, having

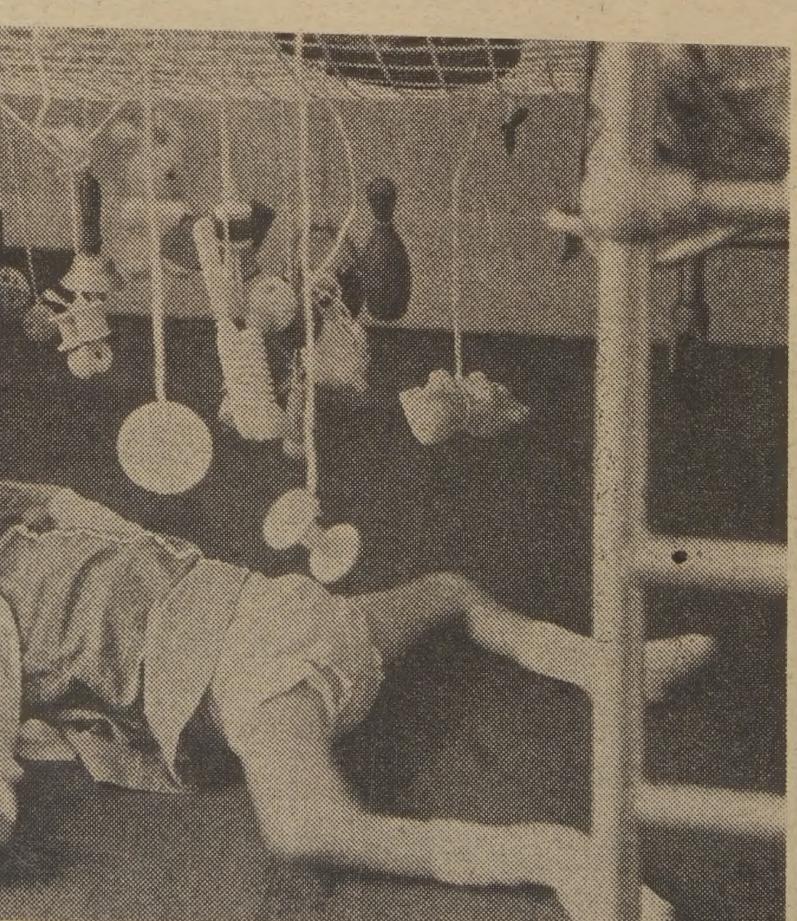


started in the old TB hospital days.

'It's very satisfying to work with such a small class,' she said. 'I have found that even if a child is backward in reading by as much as three years,



DR Brimblecombe, MD, FRCP, Consultant Paediatrician in charge of Honeylands. He was awarded a CBE in the 1975 Birthday Honours for his valuable work with handicapped children.



KAREN VINCENT, a severely handicapped spastic child enjoys looking at the mobiles and listening to the sound made by rattles, bells and squeaking toys. These playthings have been specially arranged to give mental stimulation to children with little use in their limbs.

## Lincoln's spectacular effort for spastics

FREE-FALL parachutists performing a daring aerial ballet over two miles above the ground, will officially start the 10th anniversary production of Lincolnshire Steam Spectacular on the County Showground near Lincoln on Saturday, August 14.

The 12 parachutists are all members of the RAF's crack 'Falcons' team, based at Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

Weather permitting, they will leap from a Hercules aircraft 12,000 feet above the ground, leaving trails of coloured smoke as they head earthwards. During their 60-second free fall, they will perform a number of manoeuvres before pulling their rip cords and landing in the arena.

Afterwards the aircraft will do a low level flight over the showground in salute.

### Engines

Then the arena will be filled with nearly 30 steam engines from many parts of the country, all gathered together for the birthday celebrations. A pair of ploughing engines, almost 60 years old, will leave their Leicestershire home to give a display of steam ploughing. Showman's road locomotives, steam tractors, general purpose traction engines, road rollers and steam wagons will take part in a variety of unusual competitions, and the arena programme reaches its climax with a display by the Red Arrows, the RAF's best-known aerobatic team.

The excitement continues on Sunday, August 15, when in addition to the steam programme, aircraft from the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will carry out a low-level fly-past.

### Aircraft

Among the veteran aircraft, helping to revive memories of what the skies above Lincolnshire looked like during the last war, will be the RAF's last flying Lancaster bomber, with a Spitfire and Hurricane escort.

Another climax of Sunday's programme will be a display by The Poachers jet provosts aerobatic team, from RAF College, Cranwell.

Attractions down at ground level include around 10 Showland organs, a big old-time fun fair (including a number of veteran rides), a models exhibition, trade stands and market stalls.

Lincoln and District Spastics Society Show Committee, who have raised nearly £10,000 to help local spastics since their first steam rally at Caenby Corner in 1967, are confident of a bumper attendance to beat last year's record 26,200.

Insurances totalling £750,000 have been taken out to cover the four RAF display teams during the two-day Spectacular.

Pre-rally fair organ recitals will be held on Friday, August 13 at Lincoln and at Scunthorpe, when collections will be taken for spastics funds.

### Musical aid

PROCEEDS of a concert held by Carlton and District Male Voice Choir, Nottinghamshire, amounted to £825, which has been presented to the Nottingham spastics group.



MRS Janet Garrick, physiotherapist, exercises one-year-old Martin Landon, who has cerebral palsy.

### Your offers and wants

MISS S.D., of Hampshire, is interested in hearing from anyone who could offer her work to do, preferably at home. Although not spastic she has a muscular weakness of the legs, she is in her 40's and her eyesight is fairly good. She can type, use a sewing machine and also draws and paints water-colours. She is able to earn up to £2 extra a week and is at present unemployed. While able to do work outside her home, would find homework more suitable. Replies, please, to Box 100, Spastics News, 12 Park Crescent, London WIN 4EQ.

### Cash success for SOS

COLWALL Court Holiday Home for children at Bexhill in Sussex raised £1,500 with its annual Stars Fiesta. The centre is run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics and many well-known show business personalities were there to welcome visitors.

The fiesta was opened by Harry Secombe and other targets for the autograph hunters included Patrick Carmichael, Peggy Cummins, David Jacobs, Dame Vera Lynn and Pierre Picton.

FOLLOWING their first match of the season in club waters, Barnet and District Angling Club has presented £400 to The Spastics Society. In addition to match proceeds this included some donations.

WANTED: Second-hand 'Bac-tric' electric chair. Please write.—Mrs M. Macgregor, 11, Erme Park, Ermington, Ivybridge, Devon.

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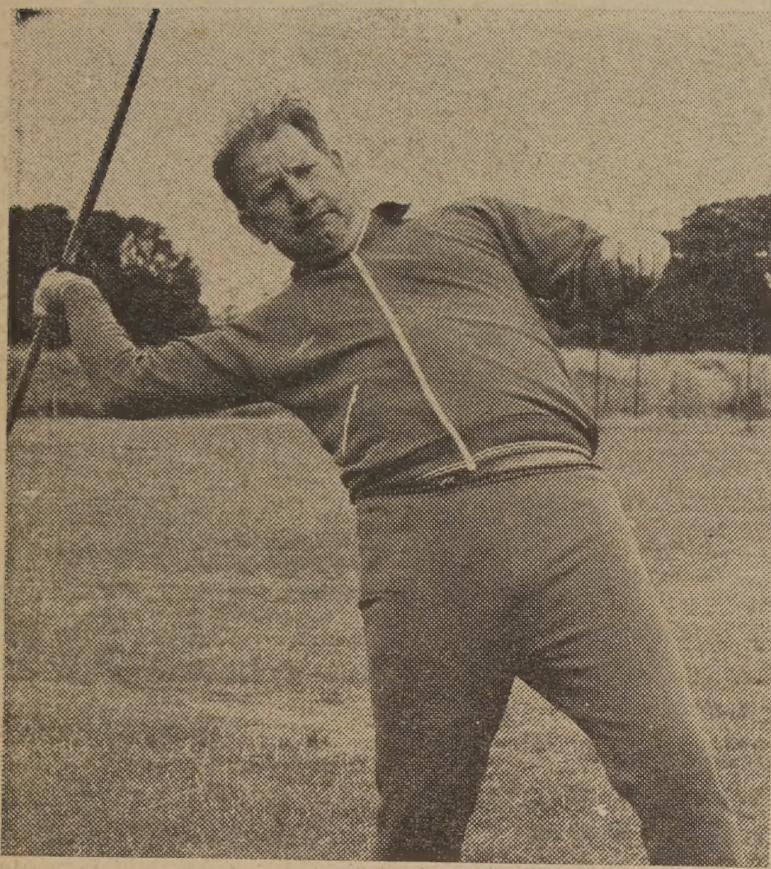
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# Our Spastics Games in the North



ABOVE: You wouldn't find more effort at the Olympic Games. Derek Young, of North Crescent, Harraton, puts heart and body into this throw which earned him victory in a distance javelin event at the Northern Counties Games. Mr Young, who also gained first places in club, and shot events, is a member of the Sunderland and District Spastics Society.

PICTURE right: Real concentration shows up on the faces of Spastics Pool director Mr Geoffrey Arter, left, and Pools colleague Mr George Abbott as they decide who should receive the Good Neighbours Trust Cup. The Cup, won by Andrew Buntin, pictured on page 1, was awarded to the competitor considered to have shown the greatest endeavour in the Northern Games. Mr Arter and Mr Abbott are, respectively, a trustee and secretary of the Trust, which sponsored the Games.

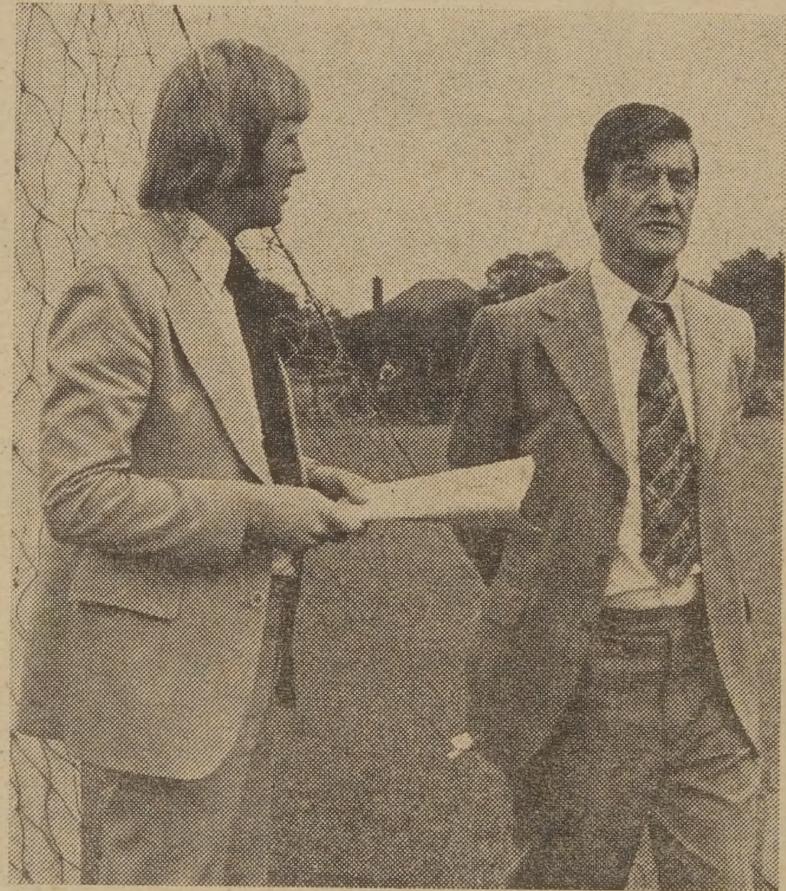
ABOVE: Terrific effort from Bryan Furrie, aged 20, of Shawbridge Street, Glasgow, who won the long jump event in his handicap grouping at the Northern Games held in Carlisle. Bryan, who attends the Spastics Work Centre, Hillington, Glasgow, also gained another first in the shot event.

## £1,500 walk

THE annual sponsored walk in aid of Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society is expected to bring in £1,500 this year.

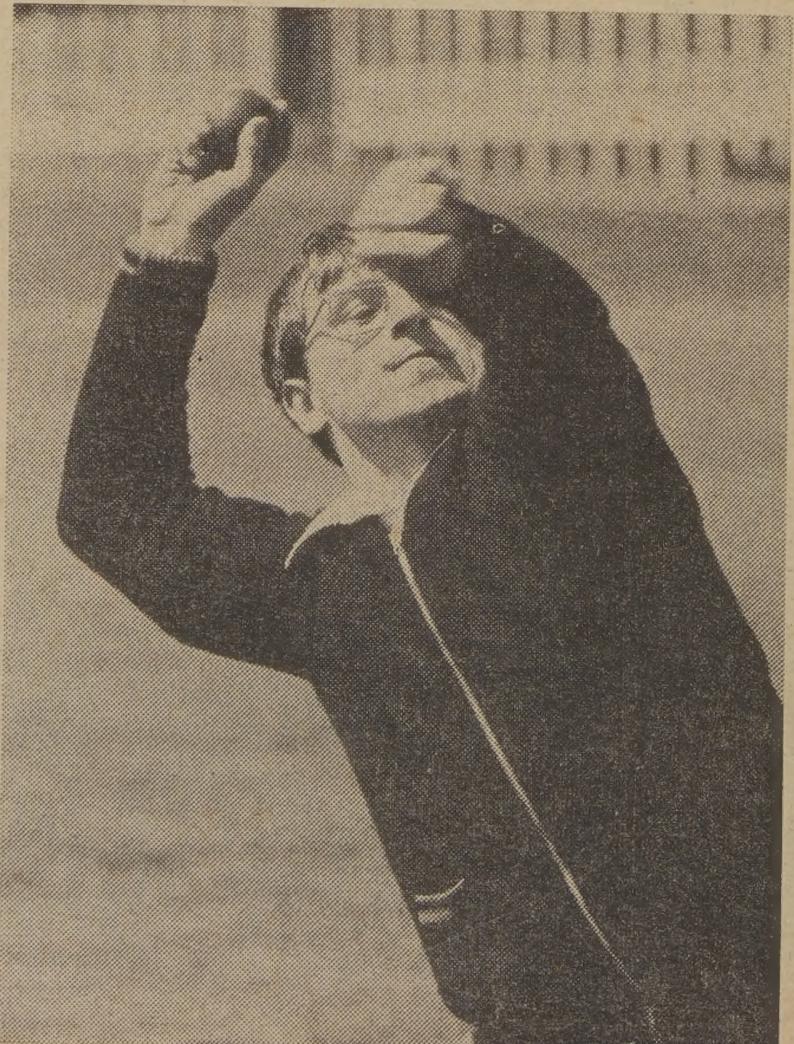
FAR right: Rousing salutes from David Turner, 23, of Dunchaple, Glasgow, and Kevin McKenzie, 24, of Bagine Terrace, Glasgow, after they had raced home first and second respectively in a 20 metres run. Both young men attend the work centre in Hillington, Glasgow. Kevin, who won a total of four second and two third places in a variety of events, was one of the Scottish contingent chosen to attend the International Spastics Games in France.

LOOK out France. Here we come! This group of 17 young men and women at the Northern Counties Games met the stringent standards for international competition which gained them a place in the British team for the Spastics Games in France, in which eight European countries will be represented. Full report of the International Games in next month's Spastics News.



## Sporting scene in Scotland

ON their way to the Northern Counties Games and indeed, to the Games in France—as they were both selected for the international event—are two young athletes competing in the Area Games at the Dunfermline College of Physical Education, Edinburgh. On the left, below, is Robert King, of Glasgow, throwing the cricket ball, and right, Ann Rae, of Calder High School, and a former pupil of Westerlea School for Spastics, Edinburgh, taking part in a discus event.



## Dean Court Hotel

has 26 bedrooms, all of which have ...

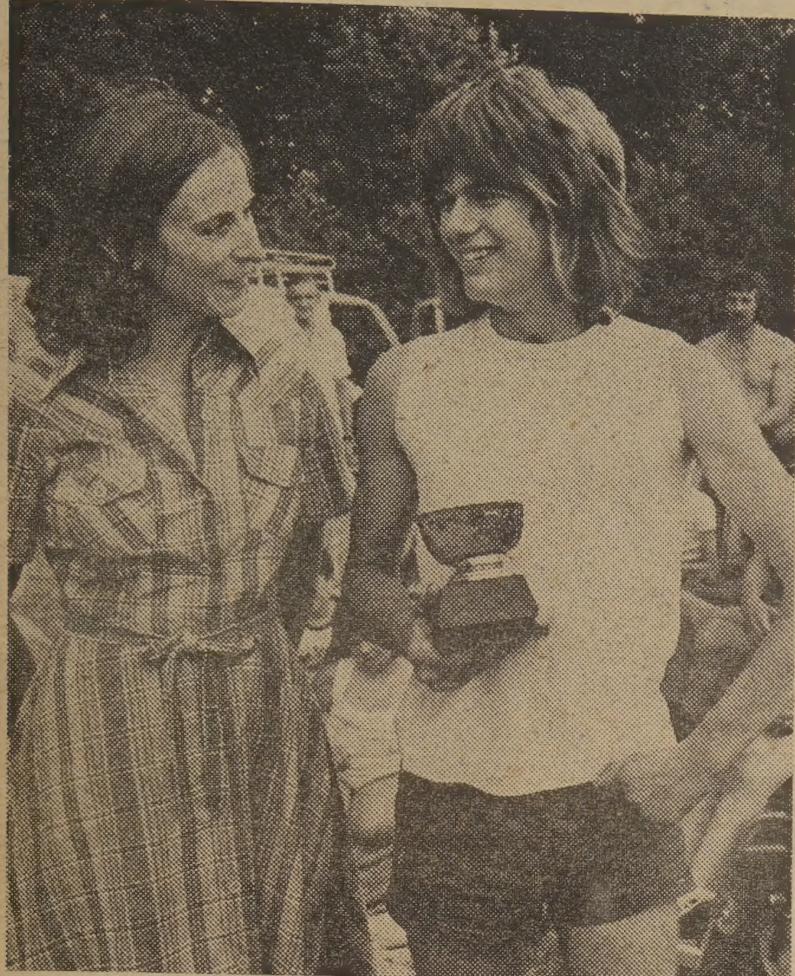
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# ... and South, but now for France



SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD Timothy Richards, a pupil of the Valence School, Westerham, Kent, receives the Berkshire Cup from Miss Jennifer Foster of Reading University at the Southern Counties Spastics Games at Reading University. Timothy was first in the following events in his class—club, shot, discus, precision javelin, medicine ball and distance javelin. He came second in the run and the 200 metres race.



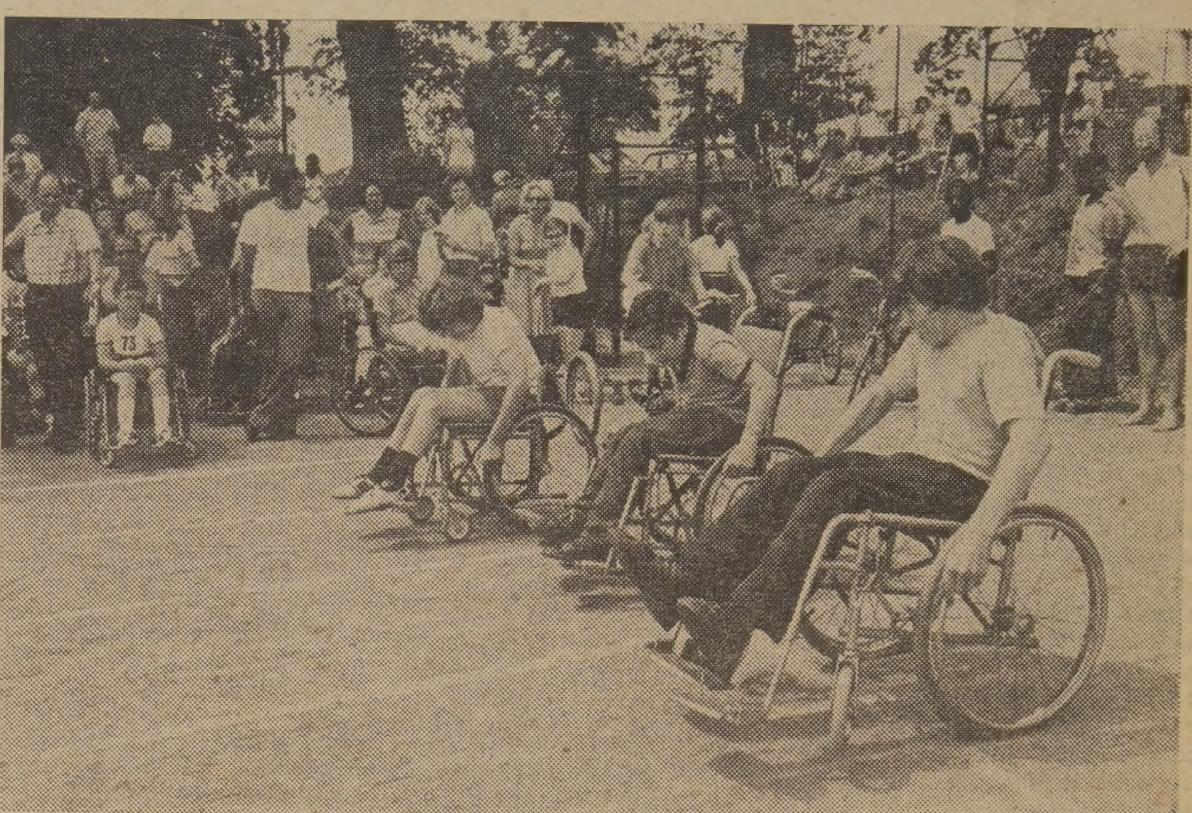
ANTHONY HONOUR, a pupil of The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School, in Tonbridge, Kent, enjoying the competition in a club event at the Southern Games. Tony was first in distance javelin, discus, wheelchair slalom and precision javelin events. He was also second in a club event and third in a wheelchair dash. Anthony was selected to compete in the International Games in France.



GRAHAM AVERY, a 15-year-old pupil of the Roger Ascham School, Cambridge, competing in the wheelchair slalom at the Southern Games. Graham, whose home is at Comberton, Cambridge, came first in light ball, second in the wheelchair dash, and first in the tricycle dash and tricycle slalom events in his class.



HELEN BATCHELOR, aged 13, of Patcham House School, Brighton, takes part in a light shot event. Helen, whose home is at Hallyburton Road, West Hove, Sussex, came first in club and precision javelin events, second in light shot and light ball events, and third in a distance javelin event. She will compete in the International Games in Montrond, France.



ABOVE: Getting ready . . . steady . . . go in the wheelchair dash during the Southern Games where the events were contested with great enthusiasm and pleasure by the spastic athletes. They came to the Games after competing in preliminary games in their own areas.

RIGHT: Ann Trotman, of Syston Park, Bristol, pictured competing in a distance javelin event in a Games which gave her a very successful day. She came first in the club, discus, wheelchair dash and wheelchair slalom, and second in the distance javelin, and has been selected to compete in the International Games. Ann is a member of the Bristol Spastics Association.



BELOW right: 15-year-old Claire Ribeiro-Ayeh, of Clements Mead, Leatherhead, Surrey, wins the wheelchair dash, and also came first in six other events. Claire, a pupil from The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Kent, will also be competing in France.



## Conference on integrated education

'INTEGRATION—the Special Education Issue' will be the theme of a conference to be organised by the Invalid Children's Aid Association on Thursday, November 11, 1976, at Imperial College, South Kensington, London. There will be contributions from those working in the social welfare, educational and medical fields and also from parents and young handicapped people. Lady Plowden will chair the morning session.

Further details from Mrs H. Price, The Conference Secretary, 96 Vista Way, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex. (Tel: 01-907 4688 and 01-730 9891.)

A HOUSE-to-house collection held by Cleveland Spastics Society has raised £654.

THE coffee morning held annually at Arundel Castle raised about £400 for Worthing Littlehampton and District Spastics Society.

## Recording the progress of 'Peto children'

THE late Professor Andras Peto originated Conductive Education and founded the State Institute for the Motor Disabled in Budapest. In this Institute about 200 children afflicted with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, paraplegia and other neurological disorders take part in a structured, pre-school training programme.

Children from 3-7 years are helped to participate in skills to equip them for a more normal education.

Professor Peto worked for many years with groups of children establishing what he thought was the best learning situation for the brain of a

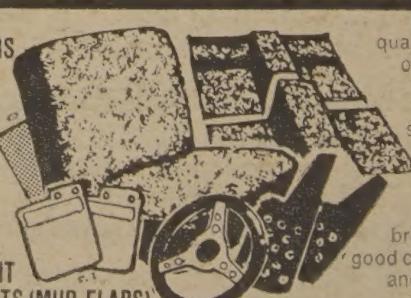
damaged child.

With the increasing interest in Conductive Education for children with cerebral palsy, in which rehabilitation and educational work are a homogenous inseparable unit, the Medical Recording Service Foundation, an educational activity of the Royal College of General Practitioners, will be issuing a series of tape-slides on this subject over the next two years.

The tapes are produced for all who are interested or working in the remedial professions with handicapped children, and if they would like to be told when each tape is available, on loan or sale, write to the 'Conductive Education Tape Series,' Medical Recording Service Foundation, PO Box 99, Chelmsford, CM1 5HL, Essex.

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## TV and sports for disabled

Cont from Page 1

cannot help feeling that, if true, this is a disreputable reason. Of course some people will be upset, but I should not have thought that the BBC would regard that as a reason for declining to show a programme. What seems to me far more important is that disabled people up and down the country and the public at large should have an opportunity to see just how much can be accomplished by people determined to overcome their disability. It may be that it should only be shown on BBC2. But to censor it altogether seems to me an act of moral cowardice.'

Mr Jenkin concludes his attack on the BBC by asking for a reversal of the apparent policy.

## Carnival cash

THE Midland Spastics Association was one of the many local charities to share in the proceeds of Birmingham University's carnival. The Association has received a cheque for £500.

THAMESDOWN and District Spastics Association has made £1,650 in seven weeks during a record fund-raising drive. Events included a raffle, a dinner-dance and a three-day festival.

PUPILS of St Louis Middle School, Bury St Edmunds, have raised £450 with a sponsored walk for Christian Aid and the Society's Bury Family Help Unit.

# Huge savings for charity groups from create-a-job programme

JCP — the initials of the Job Creation Programme — could spell out a huge saving for Spastics Society groups throughout the country. The Manpower Services Commission has taken over from the Department of Employment the responsibility for employment and training services. With a Government Grant of £70 million it is creating jobs for people who would otherwise be unemployed. And it is in this sphere that local charity organisations can benefit.

For the essence of JCP is community aid in its widest sense. JCP provides worthwhile, full-time, temporary employment for large numbers of people who would otherwise be unemployed, on projects which seek to aid the community.

### Young and old

Those JCP is specially trying to help are those who find getting a job the hardest—the under 24s and over 50s. The projects they work on are sponsored not by the Manpower Services Commission but by people and groups in the community, such as charities. Already one local Spastics

Society in the North West Region has taken advantage of the scheme.

Broadly speaking, any local group that needs, for example, a driver for the school bus, help in a day centre, someone to paint or plaster or do the grounds or run a playgroup would be eligible.

The MSC stress that the JCP is not a 'soup kitchen' scheme and jobs should provide interesting and worthwhile work experience. The real criterion is that it should have community value and to this end the MSC pays the wages of those who take on jobs through the programme.

It meets the labour costs of approved projects, which would be the local rate for the job, up to a maximum of £50 per week plus employers' National Insurance contributions. In addition, the equivalent of up to 10 per cent of the wage costs of a project may be granted to help meet adminis-

tration and other costs if these cannot be found from other sources.

The sponsor, however, is responsible for the provision of all equipment and materials needed for the running of the project and for its proper administration. By these means, the MSC seeks to make the most of its resources for the benefit of both the individual and the community as a whole.

### Progress

Application forms can be obtained from area offices and each area has an action committee which decides which projects should be supported, and monitors the progress of JCP in the area. The committee is made up of local authority, employers' and trade union representatives under an independent chairman, and its brief is to provide jobs for the unemployed urgently. The Commission stresses also that the programme operates with the minimum delay and maximum flexibility — decisions on applications are given quickly and sponsors are encouraged to start their approved projects as soon as possible.

Mr Tony Frank, Assistant Director Regions of The Spastics Society, is urging local groups to follow the lead shown by the Widnes Spastics Fellowship Group which has used the scheme, and said: 'It could save us and local groups quite a lot of money.'

### To apply...

Here are the addresses of JCP area offices:

SCOTLAND WEST: R. Percy, 450 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 2JX; tel 041-332 9722. SCOTLAND EAST: W. J. Findlay, Lauriston House, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9EB; tel 031-229 2515.

NORTHERN: G. Garnett, 38 Market Square, Sunderland SR1 3LP; tel 0783 43316.

YORKS AND HUMBERSIDE: D. Johnson, Pennine House, Russell Street, Leeds LS1 5RN; tel 0532 41417.

LONDON AND SE: J. Walton, 166 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PF; tel 01-836 1213.

SOUTH WEST: L. R. Middlewick, St Stephen's House, 9 Catherine Street, Exeter EX1 1TN; tel 0392 32341. MIDLANDS: L. Bayes, George House, George Road, Five Ways, Edgbaston, Birmingham; tel 021-454 2995. WALES: R. Aston, 4th Floor, Pearl Assurance House, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF1 3AG; tel 0222 372501.

MERSEYSIDE: W. Bailey, Graeme House, Derby Square, Liverpool L2 7SU; tel 051-227 4111. NORTH

WEST: D. Taylor, Elisabeth House, 14 St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 3DF; tel 061-236 9401.

# They'll do ANYTHING for the Spastics Shop



## Courses for volunteer co-ordinators

A NEW series of five-day residential courses for voluntary service co-ordinators (VSCs) has been announced by The Volunteer Centre.

The courses are aimed at those involved with volunteers in the health and social services, the probation and after-care services and in voluntary organisations.

During the academic year now ending, the Centre has sponsored six basic courses for VSCs, who have been in post for between three and 12 months, and these will continue.

Basic courses for VSCs who have been in post for between three and 12 months will be held as follows: September 20-24, 1976, at Edge Hill College of Higher Education, Lancs; November 1-5, November 22-26, January 31-February 4, 1977, all at Norwich City College. The second-level courses for experienced VSCs will be held on December 13-17, 1976, and March 14-18, 1977, both at Norwich City College.

The courses cost £48 inclusive and application forms and further details can be obtained from Warren Redman, Training Advisory Unit, The Volunteer Centre, 29 Lower King's Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2AB.

THIS eye-catching trio walked from the Westgate to the King Alfred Statue in Winchester to raise money for spastics. Mrs Young, manageress of the local spastics shop, was sponsored for over £10 and also hoped to win some bets. All the money raised by Mrs Young and her two friends will be paid into a fund for a projected new residential centre in the Winchester area.

## Bognor's rag helps spastics

STUDENTS of Bognor Regis College of Education have presented £335 to Oriska Cameron, the Society's appeals officer for the area. This is part of the £740 proceeds from the college rag day, and the students have asked for the money to be spent on lounge furniture in the new holiday hotel for spastic adults in Bognor Regis.

Another part of the rag day money went to the Arun Parents' Group for deaf children, which also helps some spastic youngsters.

## Promise of more jobs for disabled in Civil Service

ACCORDING to a statement in the House of Commons, steps are being taken to promote the employment of more disabled people in the Civil Service.

In answer to a question from Mr Jack Ashley, MP, Mr Charles Morris, MP, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, said that suitable qualified disabled people would be made aware of opportunities in the Civil Service, and particular care

was to be taken in the career development of disabled people.

To encourage recruitment, national and regional officers would be reminded of the potentialities of disabled people; more formal links would be established with the Disablement Resettlement Service and advertisements in the media directed at disabled people would be considered.

In addition, applicants for employment would be reminded that a physical

handicap is no cause for rejection provided that it does not prevent satisfactory work. Registered disabled applicants for clerical vacancies could also sit special tests if they lacked the formal educational qualifications.

The Minister for the Disabled had also been in touch with Ministerial colleagues about the appointment of suitably qualified or experienced disabled people to public boards and other bodies.



## If you think this child is just enjoying himself — think again

He is in fact learning to use his arms and legs, with help from physiotherapist Elizabeth Dain. Because Jeremy is spastic, that means he has cerebral palsy. It can take many forms. In the case of Jeremy, it has affected the parts of the brain controlling his movement and speech.

With skilled early treatment Jeremy's condition can be improved. Without it, he could face a lonely, isolated future.

But Jeremy is one of the lucky ones. He is receiving the care and attention he

desperately needs, at the Watford Spastics Treatment Centre. Jeremy has a real chance of a happier, independent life.

Unfortunately there are many more spastic children who need our specialist treatment. And each day six more spastics are born. If The Spastics Society and its local groups are to continue providing these necessary services and give many more spastic children the chance in life they deserve, we need money today — from you.

Please send your donation to:

The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.  
Please accept my donation of £\_\_\_\_\_. I enclose cash/postal order/cheque/giro  
No. 5025656. Please send cash by registered mail and cross postal orders and  
cheques.  Tick only if you require a receipt.

I wish to receive details of the tax advantages of a Legacy or Deed of Covenant.  
(Delete if not required.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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The  
Spastics  
Society



## He's richer by £10,000

PETER LEE, left, warden of the Princess Marina Centre, Chalfont Road, Seer Green, Beaconsfield, presented a cheque for £10,000 to John Davis at the centre on July 19. Mr Davis, of Pennington Road, Chalfont St Peter, who is married with one daughter, won the first dividend on the Pool outright.

Until recently the Davis family lived in a council flat, but unfortunately a fire gutted the living room and they were forced to move to their present address. However, Mr Davis, who is employed as a foreman electrician, is considering using his prize money toward the purchase of their own home.

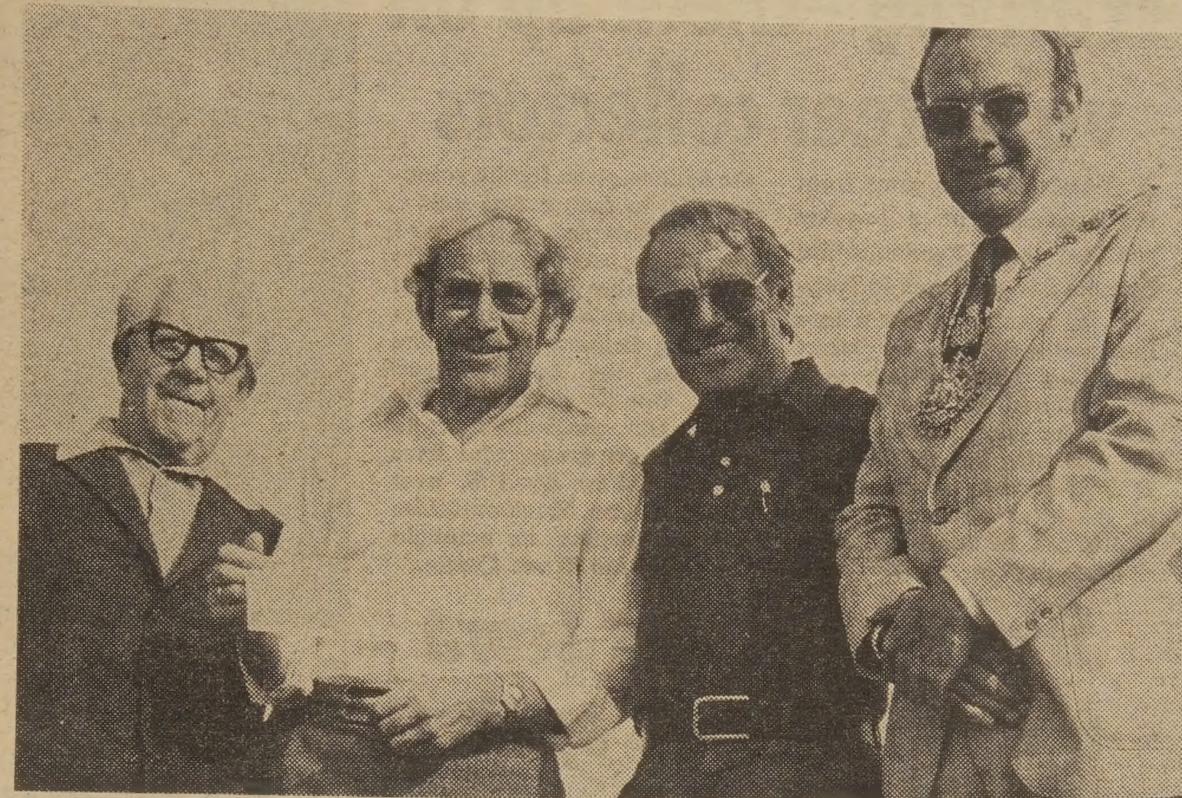
Presentation arrangements were made by area supervisor Derek Bech, who has actively supported the Princess Marina Centre for many years. He and his collectors sold raffle tickets in support of the fete at the Centre.

Collector Terry Were, who received a bonus cheque of £500, and members of John and wife Angela's family also attended. Top Ten Promotions was represented by the Editor from Westmorland House, and Tony Veater of the marketing department.

### News about the Spastics Pool

MR Frank Witts, of Fox Elm Road, receiving his cheque for £5,000 from England international darts player David Russell at the Bristol Hotel, Gloucester. Also featured is collector Mr Eric Johnston, who received £250.

## Stars at Southend



FOR the second year in succession, veteran and vintage cars attracted thousands of people to Southchurch Park, Southend and raised funds for the Stars Organisation for Spastics Centre at Wakes Hall.

Top Ten Promotions which supported the dress section—competitors were encouraged

to appear in period costume — was represented by members of the marketing department who spent the afternoon busily distributing literature about the Pool.

Picture shows: Spastics Pool Area Supervisor, Percy Perryman, receiving a cheque on

behalf of one of his members, Mr Smith, of Benfleet. Also shown are Jack Howarth (Albert Tatlock of Coronation Street), Dickie Henderson, and the Mayor of Southend, Councillor Neville Moss. Mr Smith who won £2,800 on the first dividend was unfortunately unable to attend.

I REFER to the article on VAT charged on appliances and aids to the disabled by the Supplies Officer in the July issue of Spastics News, and I would like to support strongly the case you make. You might be interested to know that I wrote, two years ago, about this matter to both Members of Parliament for this borough and also to DIG. They took it up with the Treasury but, I regret, to no avail.

I could enlarge on the points you made as I have myself had a leaflet from the Customs and Excise on which appliances or aids for the disabled are exempt from VAT. In my opinion there are several anomalies in this list.

However, in all cases where an individual has an aid or appliance which he wishes to

## But how can a parent decide?

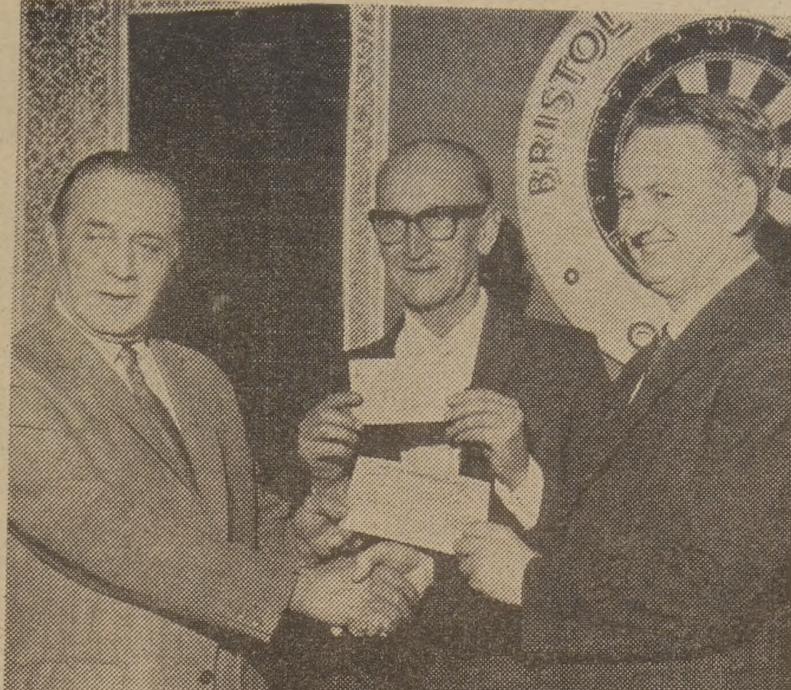
I AM sure Dr Donald Gough is quite right in his views that children may suffer mentally and physically while in hospital undergoing orthopaedic operations to 'tidy them up.' But what does he suggest the parent says when a surgeon recommends an operation on a young handicapped child? It would take a very brave mother to refuse, thus incurring the wrath of the specialist concerned, and the worry that she has not done the 'right thing' by her child. Perhaps surgeons should work more closely with psychiatrists when these decisions are being made?

Dr Gough's views were most interesting. Can we have more of them in Spastics News?

Mrs J. Stephens,  
London, NW.

## LETTERS

ment? The mother of an able-bodied child knows only too well the battle to get their young progeny to the doctor or the dental surgeon for routine examinations and injections because pain is inextricably linked in the child's mind with these visits. So how much more is the terror of the handicapped tot. It seems to me that we either transform these children into 'tidied up' youngsters traumatised for lifetime, or unnatural little stoics who passively accept



INTERNATIONAL darts player Doug Priestner presents a cheque for £5,000 to Spastics Pool first dividend winner Pat Whitty at the Royal British Legion Club, Walcot, Swindon, on Tuesday, July 13.

Mrs Whitty, of Keswick Road, Swindon, is married with two children and joined the Spastics Pool a year ago.

## Tributes in memory of Norman

MR NORMAN CLARK, a resident of the Grange, The Spastics Society's Centre at Kelvendon, Essex, has died suddenly at the age of 53.

The Centre's Warden, Mr Chris Jowett, said: 'Norman joined the Kelvendon Spastics Society when it was formed 21 years ago and was the second resident through the doors of The Grange when it opened in 1959.'

'He died as he had lived, making as little trouble to others as possible. He was very well known throughout the Colchester, Essex, area, and in Lincolnshire, and I know many will be grieved to hear of his death. All who knew him never forgot him.'

'Just before he died he had completed a rug which he made with his one useful hand. We entered it in the local show after his death and it was awarded third prize in the handicraft section.'

The day after Mr Clark's death Mr J. L. Wood wrote this very moving appreciation of his friend as a tribute to his memory.

'Norman's sudden and untimely death will leave a gap in the lives of all who knew him, particularly his companions at The Grange. I consider it a privilege to have known him for 20 years, particularly during the halcyon days of Prested Hall.'

'Norman was one of the very few to achieve what is almost impossible in a close community: he made many friends and, to my knowledge, no enemies, for he was immensely popular with staff and residents alike.'

'In spite of a severe speech defect and a limited facility with letters, he overcame communication problems to a remarkable degree. On his weekly shopping trips to Colchester, I cannot remember him buying the wrong item or making a mistake in the change, and, if one was feeling low, the touch of his hand on the shoulder said all the words which could not pass his lips.'

'Norman has left our circle, but his cheery laugh, his hopping gait, his memory, will linger with those who knew and respected him for many, many years.'

## Support for our VAT campaign

(or has to) get repaired at his own expense, VAT is always chargeable.

For example, I own a Batic Electric Chair which is absolutely essential for me to travel between my house and my office, but when I need a new battery or if the chair needs servicing then VAT has to be charged.

I hope your organisation will press this point upon the Treasury.

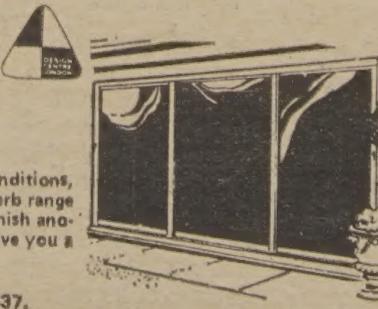
Ronald Cribb,  
Chairman,  
Richmond-upon-Thames  
Association for the  
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289 Sheen Road,  
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## WINDOW ON WALES

by Emlyn Davies

# Is this a lesson for all parents?

READERS of the last issue of Spastics News no doubt read of the wonderful holiday that a number of spastics spent in Spain, and as a result, I have received the following thoughts from the parents of one of those holidaymakers. It concerns their reaction to the fact that their son went away on holiday and, indeed, to a foreign country, on his own for the first time.

The question in both their minds was 'Can he manage without us?' 'Should we let him go?' 'Can he face the world without his parents beside him?'

Their personal experience after the holiday is that most

certainly he can, and did, and I quote 'probably managed better than if his Mum and Dad were with him.' There is no doubt that to see your disabled child off on a train for 10 days is quite a traumatic experience, but to welcome him home after the holiday, and to see that he coped and coped well is 'a fantastic experience and an achievement for the disabled beyond their dreams.'

Perhaps there is a lesson here for all parents. All children need love and understanding, but they must be allowed to grow and develop and have all the experiences that able-bodied youngsters have in their early and teenage life.



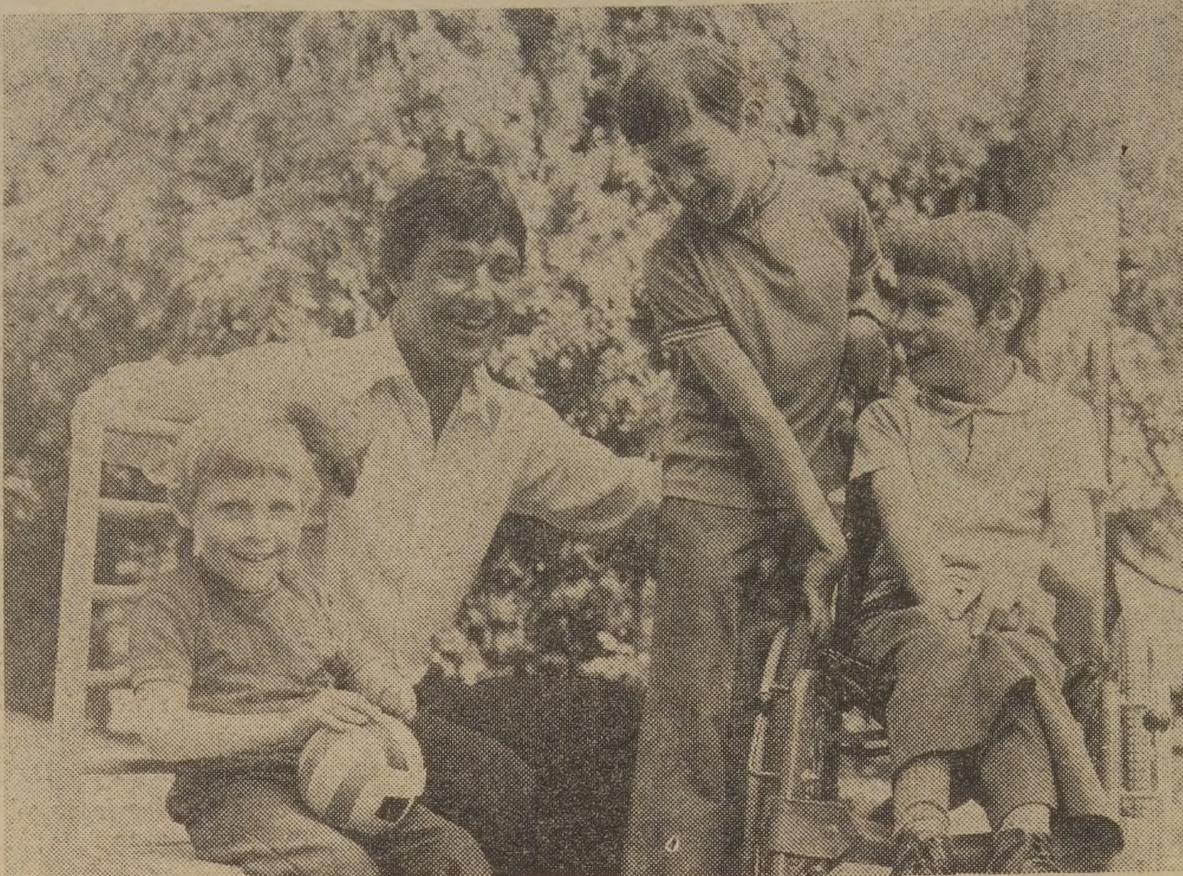
## Newly-weds Adventurers hope to form '62 Club

A WEDDING for Mr Malcolm Fox, of Llandudno, and Miss Vivien Potter, of Christchurch, Dorset. Malcolm and Vivien are spastics, and they first met at a London '62 Club tenth year celebration. Vivien was secretary of the London '62 Club from 1968 to 1970.

They are extremely interested in forming a '62 Club in the Llandudno area where they are now living, so if anybody is interested in helping them, would they please contact Mr and Mrs Fox at Flat 3, 5 Abbey Road, Llandudno. And may we take this opportunity of congratulating them both and wishing them every happiness for the future.

## Bill sells the Pool - and the 'News'

BILL STEINER and his wife, Sheena, who are both spastics, and their young two-year-old son, Caradoc, have always been interested in The Spastics Society and its groups and recently Bill took on an agency for the Spastics Pool. Starting from nothing, Bill has now 194 clients whom he collects from each week. He also sells Spastics News to as many people as he can.



## A chat with a legend

ONE of the most famous international names in rugby football and the subject of many a poem and song in Wales, took time off to visit the children at Craig-y-Parc school for spastics. The picture shows Barry John having a chat with Mark Rice, Steven Evans and Richard Chappell, all pupils at the school.

Thank you, Barry, for your friendliness and your thoughtfulness.

## Warning - check up on volunteer collectors

A WARNING has come from the organisers of a flag-day run in the Monmouthshire Spastics Society's area in Newport, to take the greatest care in choosing the voluntary street collectors. Two young girls who offered to act as flag sellers for them vanished with the collecting box and takings. It is possible to obtain a copy of the local electoral register which can be most useful in determining accurately that

the address given by the volunteers is, in fact, a true one.

The Newport support group's appeals organiser, Mrs Edna Dombrowski, stated that all care should be taken when enlisting helpers, but, despite the loss, the Appeal raised £735. One tin contained a £20 note. Our congratulations to this support group who have donated, since April 5, over £1,000 to the Monmouthshire Spastics Society to maintain the Cwmbran Work Centre.

## Spastic athletes scorn the indoor soft option

THE Welsh Area Spastics Games were held at the National Sports Centre, Cardiff, where 120 competitors came from Wales and the West of England to compete against one another.

Very early in the morning it rained heavily and this rain continued all day. However, to give some idea of the grit and determination of the



competitors, they were asked before the Games commenced if they would like a reduced competition held indoors? The reply from everyone was that they were competing in an athletics event and if it were for able-bodied competitors, it would not be cancelled.

It was here that for one week seven spastics and their helpers came together from England and Wales to try the holiday with a difference. The group, led by John Roberts, regional officer for Wales, visited the Dan-yr-Ogof Caves, deep underground in the Welsh mountains, but thanks to the help and co-operation of the staff of the caves, all the disabled people were able to visit most of the places of interest.

Help was received from the local secondary school and every day a number of girls from the school went to the centre to mingle with the holidaymakers and help wherever they could.

The holiday included fishing and horse-riding and ended with a disco, at which everybody had a tremendous time.

We would like to thank Father Skyles and Father Clarke, responsible for building and running the centre, for allowing us to use it for a week's holiday.



alternative arrangements made to hold it indoors.

I think the two competitors pictured show more than adequately the amount of effort and determination they put into the very individual events. Despite the bad weather, everybody had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

### Essential reading

I HAVE recently received a copy of the 'Disabled Visitors' Guide to Wales,' which is produced by the Wales Tourist Board, priced at 25p. This is a must for all people involved with the disabled in the Principality. Copies are available from the Wales Tourist Board, the Wales Council for the Disabled, or the SRO, price 25p.

SOME people may have heard of the massive American-owned international Aluminium Company called ALCOA Manufacturing. One of the largest plants in the UK is situated near Swansea and one would think that a large international organisation like this would bear little relation to a small work centre for spastics belonging to the Swa-

sea and District Spastics Association. Recently, however, as a result of much publicity on the dangers of asbestos, the Swansea Work Centre were offered. The centre is now hard at work producing as many of these gloves as

previously the workers in the hot mills had been using gloves which had been made padded with asbestos; but after the publicity on its dangers,



## 25 years on at Cardiff

CARDIFF and District Spastics Association have been celebrating a quarter-of-a-century of service to spastics in Cardiff. The picture shows the cutting of the 25th anniversary cake by left, Tommy Thomas, the group's first chairman, Mrs Dorothy Cottle, the present Chairman, and Mr Philip Northam, and Mrs Sue Jones, founder members of the Cardiff and District Spastics Association. Once again, many congratulations and long may the work continue.

THE support that Cardiff group members receives from various organisations in the area is constant and are always happy occasions. The British Rail canteen social club has recently run two charity walks in fancy dress for them, and raised sums of £57 and £61.

## All efforts great and small...

ALL help, large or small, helps the work of The Spastics Society and its local groups, but requires the same thought and feeling and ingenuity whatever the size of the event. A small event was the latest endeavour of the boys of

it was decided to change the material to moleskin. The gloves were needed very quickly and the services of the Swansea Work Centre were offered. The centre is now hard at work producing as many of these gloves as

A senior man of the ALCOA Co told me that his company is delighted with the quality and

## Turning pence into pounds

ALISON Taylor Williams is the 10-year-old grand-daughter of Mrs Clarrie Williams, and she is already raising money for her local Spastics Society by hiring out her books and magazines at 1p a time. If the books are out over a certain period then a further 1p is charged. So successful has Alison been since April that she has been able to donate £3 to the Monmouthshire Spastics Society.

promptness of delivery of the contract given to the Swansea work centre.

The spin-off has been that The Spastics Society is becoming well known to the company and it is hoped that further contracts will be awarded in the future.

A happy story of a small organisation helping a very large one.

## Small work centre aids giant US company

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previously the workers in the hot mills had been using gloves which had been made padded with asbestos; but after the publicity on its dangers,

## 'Learn to read' plan needs more teachers

READING lessons for spastic adults in Bristol may have to be discontinued unless more volunteer teachers can be found.

There are 20 spastic people aged between 16 and 46 who want to learn to read, but only four people are available to teach them. The ideal pupil/teacher ratio would be one-to-one.

The lessons also provide a social occasion and it would be disappointing for the eager students if the scheme is forced to end through lack of support.

## Success afloat at Kingston

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, Surrey, has a highly successful swimming club for disabled people, run by voluntary helpers. The club has been in existence for 22 years and most of the members are in wheelchairs. Aided by the buoyancy of the water they soon become proficient swimmers and some have won medals in local galas.

There are 25 voluntary instructors who come from all parts of Surrey to help give lessons. Many are young people who have little knowledge of disability when they first join, and the scheme gives them an excellent insight into the problems of the handicapped.



## 'Tune up' gift for centre

THE Lil Stockdale Centre, run by Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society, has been given a tuner-amplifier unit by Toshiba, the electronics firm. Photographed at the presentation ceremony are, left to right, Grainger Kitt, Toshiba sales manager, Toshiba dealer Roy Brooke, William Sayle-Creer, Chairman of the Lil Stockdale Centre, and Kenneth Headon, Vice-Chairman.

## 'Good loo' guide to Scotland

THE FIRST guide to public toilets in Scotland accessible to people in wheelchairs has been published by the Scottish Council on Disability, part of the Scottish Council of Social Service. It describes toilet facilities for disabled people in Scotland from busy Sauchiehall Street to Traigh Beach at Arisaig.

The guide, prepared from the results of a questionnaire sent to all District Councils in Scotland, lists 114 toilets in 80

# Elizabeth — the white witch who uses her 'powers' to help others

A MODEST ground-floor Council flat in North London's busy Tottenham is not the kind of place you expect to come across witchcraft. And Elizabeth Sorrel is very far from most people's idea of a witch. But then, as Elizabeth is quick to point out — she is a white witch — someone who is a medium for good not evil.

For a start when she reads Tarot cards for people she uses a pack of ordinary playing cards — not the highly stylised traditional cards with their sometimes frightening pictures for she believes they smack of necromancy and the work of the Devil.

Despite the down-to-earth atmosphere of her cosy flat with its thick pile carpets and attractive modern furniture and decor, it was not without some trepidation that I chose to have the cards read for me.

Carefully I shuffled the pack and then handed them to Elizabeth who laid them down in rows face up before put-

ting away the rest of the cards to study the ones she had dealt. The tension grew as she began to write her evaluation, and suddenly she looked up to tell me that some strong force was dominating her. 'I haven't experienced this for two or three years. It is very strange—and very strong. I can't shut it out of my mind. What I am writing here is not in my usual style—it is being dictated by this force. Whatever it is you have brought it with you and it will leave me when you go.' And she carried on writing, swiftly.

### The cards

Elizabeth has been reading Tarot cards for about a year—her practice as a white witch grew from an interest in herbal medicine and she discovered that she had a gift for healing. 'When I heal I get an odd vibratory feeling, then I lay hands on people with a high

degree of success. I've helped people with all sorts of diseases, nervous disorders, arthritis, manic depressives, anything that comes. I held up one man with terminal cancer for three years. I did it by concentrating on him.'

### In plaster

Yet Elizabeth herself has known a long history of ill-health. Born in London in 1938, she was two and still not walking when she was taken to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and a 'weakness of the legs' diagnosed. Evacuated during the war with calipers on her legs 'until the muscles strengthened,' she spent three years in a home for crippled children. Then her spasticity was re-diagnosed, this time as juvenile arthritis, and she was put in plaster for nine months. An Australian doctor suggested physiotherapy and her father, fearing that the former regime of treatment was making too much of an invalid of her, vigorously spent two hours each night exercising her wasted limbs.

She only had 12 months of schooling, for a doctor decreed that she was too weak for the strain of ordinary school when she passed her 11-plus.

Later when she was 16 she developed arthritis and asthma. 'But I chose to work because I felt that if I didn't I'd have a very narrow life so I decided to work for as long as I was fit.' For a year she modelled stockings for a stocking manufacturer, but most of her jobs have been sedentary.

### Different'

It was when she was a teenager that she realised she was different from other children—not because she was a spastic but because she could see ghosts. 'I pick them up like TV waves. The first time it happened was when I was 14 and for a joke, a child bolted me into a dark room with a light on outside. I saw an old woman—nobody had told me that his grandma had died the week before. I put out my hand and it went straight through her and I had hysterics.'

'When I calmed down I realised that ghosts aren't harmful as such—just spirits who have died suddenly or been afraid to die and have been left in limbo. They have to be convinced that they are safe and then they go.'

'Occasionally though, you



Elizabeth Sorrel

get malignant poltergeists throwing things, making a noise and turning things upside down. I had two old men here whom I had to exorcise because they would keep talking. When we first moved into this flat I thought the chatter we could hear was because the walls were thin, but when I realised what was causing it I went round the flat with bell, book and crucifix. I have a crucifix on my study wall and I always wear one round my neck so that I am protected from black witches. There are several covens near-by.'

Elizabeth was 26, married, and had one non-handicapped child after losing three mongol babies at birth before it was discovered that she had 45 chromosomes instead of the normal 46. 'I felt very bitter at the time.' Her daughter Sharon is now 15. 'I would have liked more children because I think it is wrong to have an only child, but I wouldn't risk more malformed children.'

For the last six years Elizabeth's physical health has slowly deteriorated; tests revealed multiple sclerosis, but her work for others has increased.

She sits on Haringey's committee for the disabled, and interests herself in a considerable number of charities apart

from the North London Spastics Society of which she is a member. She is involved with the local toy library and prisoners' wives aid, and raises money by painting animal portraits from photographs and creating handicrafts.

Seeing Lord Weymouth on television, and 'not being put off by his outrageous appearance,' she wrote to him, and subsequently he asked her to design the flag for his campaign to become King of Wessex. 'It was part embroidery and part tapestry techniques that I used.'

Although she still prepares herbal remedies if specially asked, she does not keep a stock of herbs for making up potions. 'I use just ordinary herbs like rosemary, witch-hazel, anodyne and oil of tree bark, but there are so many herbal shops now it is cheaper if I just write out the remedy for people to get themselves.' She still does 'distant healing.' 'I use a photo or article of clothing and go through a ritual each night if the person is too ill to travel to me.' She also does Tarot reading by post. She sends a pack of cards with the request that the person shuffles them and sends them back. Then she lays them out and sends her reading. She charges £1.50 and it all goes into a special fund for charity such as buying Christmas presents or Easter eggs for the children of prisoners.

### My reading

As for my reading—well it showed the funeral card—not the death card—and no inheritance, which suggested I would hear of someone's death who was not close to me. Indeed a few days later a friend phoned with news of an unexpected death. The cards also revealed that people confided in me and curiously enough I had travelled to Elizabeth's home with a girl friend who had been discussing her marital problems with me. For she was having an affair of which her husband was unaware, with an older man, and was undecided whether to stay with him or travel abroad with her husband. This friend also had her cards read—they showed up the deceit card, the travel card, the parting card and forthcoming legal problems. And there was no way that Elizabeth could have known any of this!

Also in my reading was the Four of Spades—the Peace card, which promises ultimate peace—to my mind the best card of all.

Liz Cook

## Appeal rights on mobility allowance

MR Lewis Carter-Jones (Lab, Eccles) asked the Secretary of State for Social Services in the Commons what appeals procedure was available for people refused a mobility allowance.

Mr Alfred Morris, Minister for the Disabled, replied on July 7 that the appeal system parallels that used for many years under the industrial injuries provisions.

On non-medical matters the right of appeal was to a local appeal tribunal with a further right of appeal to the National Insurance Commissioner. On medical questions, the right of appeal was to a medical board with a further right of appeal to a medical appeal tribunal. In those cases there was a further right of appeal to the Commissioner on a point of law.

Information about rights of appeal was included in every letter notifying a claimant of the disallowance of his claim.

## Give them the money

Cont from Page 1

real issue. To demand more money at a time when the public spending axe is chopping through the economy seems to be a forlorn hope, but without a reasonable means of transport many disabled people will be unable to carry on independent lives.

While the controversy raged after the phasing-out announcement, there were hopeful moves to provide cars for the drivers who will eventually lose their trikes. The Central Council for the Disabled is negotiating possible discounts with motor manufacturers, and hoping the Government will provide the cash—about £9 million—to allow the Council to start a hire purchase scheme for drivers who have been turned down by finance houses. Another idea is for the mobility allowance to be paid in a lump sum to help the new purchaser.

Mr Alfred Morris, Minister for the Disabled, put the matter into perspective on Monday (August 2) in a BBC radio interview. He pointed out that he was, after all, doing what he had been asked to do by the disabled. That was to help give mobility to all disabled people—not just those who were able to drive—and give cash not hardware. The mobility allowance at its present rate provided £2,000 over the lifetime of a trike, and while a replacement vehicle had not been ruled out, another 'standard' car might cause as many problems as its three-wheeled predecessor as potential drivers came in different sizes and shapes and had varied disabilities.

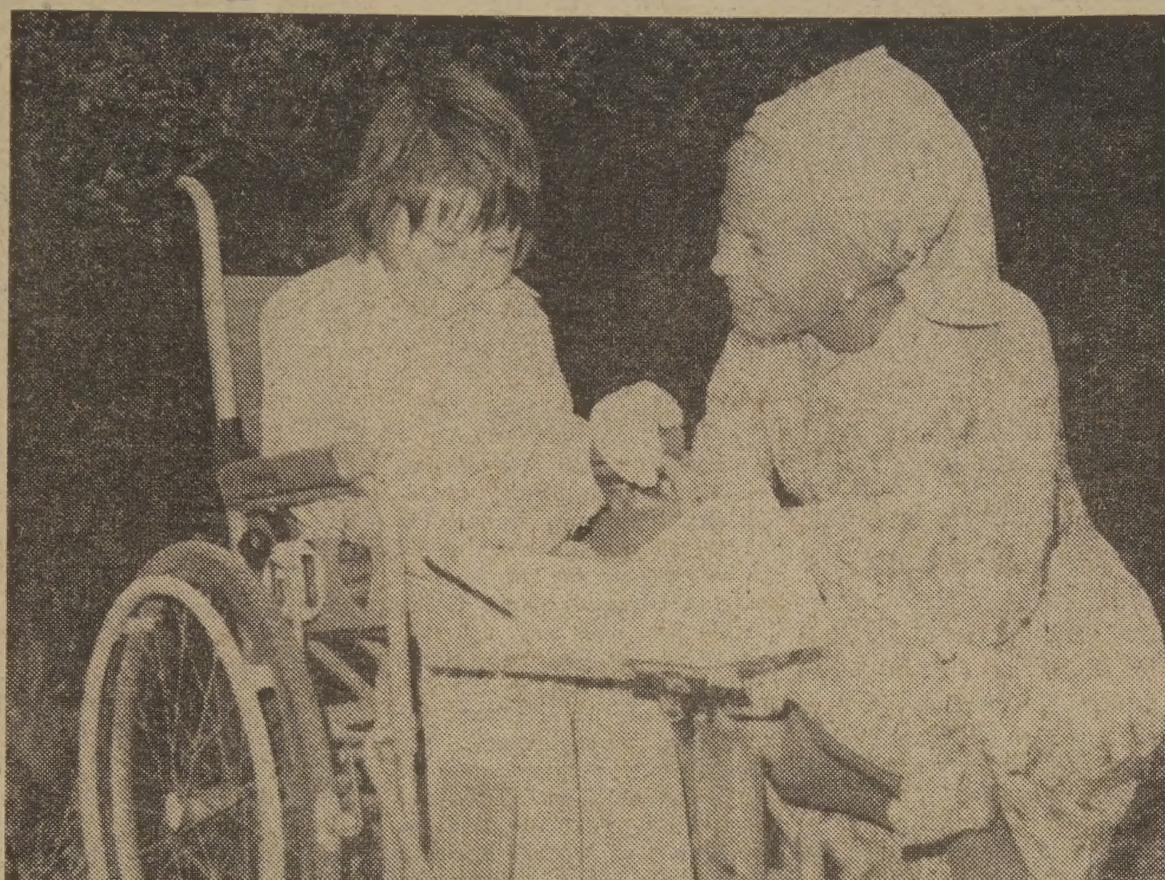
After all the emotional talk it boils down to this:

Trike owners need cash to buy cars, whether on HP or outright. The mobility allowance must be raised, not only to keep the drivers on the road, but to help the less-vocal, but equally deserving disabled people who would like to get out and about, but find £5 just isn't enough.

So for heaven's sake, give them the money.

But, for heaven's sake, let's not shed crocodile tears over the end of the trike. To do so suggests that all those years of criticism were just so much hot air,

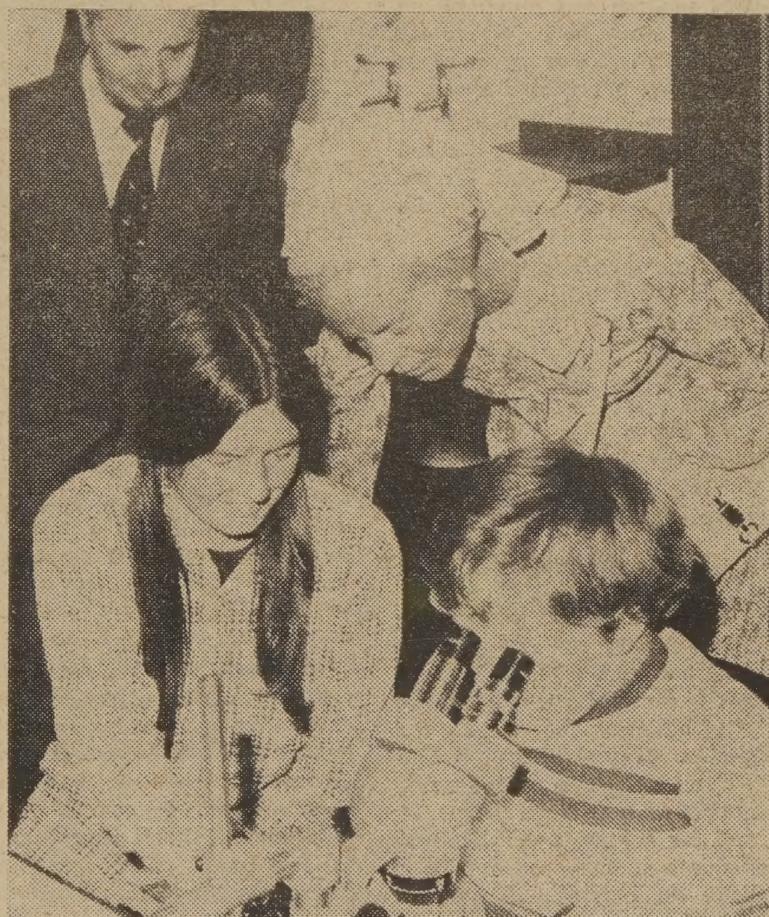
# Royal visit to Cornish centre



ANTHONY WILLIAMS, aged 14, from Hebden Green School, Winsford, Cheshire, found an interested observer in his nature project when the Duchess of Kent visited the Churchtown Farm Field Studies Centre, Lanlivery, Cornwall, in July. The Society's £230,000 centre is the first of its kind in the world.



THE Duchess of Kent was greeted by the Society's Chairman, Mr Dorrien Belson, and enjoyed a tour of the centre before the ceremony of unveiling a plaque to commemorate her visit.



DR Michael Cotton, the Centre's Warden, looks on while the Duchess watches Mark Downing, 12, of Hebden Green School, at work in the laboratory, aided by staff member Mary Coleman.



THE high spot of the Duchess's visit came for Susan Grundy, 16, of the Society's Thomas Delarue School, Kent, when she presented a bouquet to the Society's Patron.



IN the nature reserve, deputy warden Keith Falconer showed the Duchess a box of pond life samples, and with them is French girl Gaelle Guibourge from Versailles, who accompanied her handicapped sister on the course.

## At Trinity they need everything but the kitchen sink . . .

COATHANGERS, a deep freeze, two javelins, a table saw, a clock, a bed trolley and a sewing machine would appear to have little in common. They are, in fact, some of the hundreds of items needed to complete the equipping of the new Trinity Centre for Spastics, Loaning Road, Edinburgh.

Actual construction of the centre, which includes a sheltered workshop (an enlarged and modernised version of the old St Jude's laundry) work centre, day care unit, a canteen, therapy rooms and various other facilities, is almost complete and a great deal of equipment installed. The move from the old centre took place on August 2.

What still remains to be found are the myriad smaller items, ranging in price from hundreds of pounds to a few pence.

Says general manager Stephen O'Neill: 'We are indebted to many individuals

## Strange but true - our yarn for the silly season

JOHN BONSER had no intention of slaving over a hot stove during the recent heat wave. While fellow Mancunians frizzled in the sizzling heat, John had a white-hot idea on how to cut down on his fuel bill for cooking. And he wrote to Spastics News to pass on

his tip for when the temperature tops the 90's.

On Wednesday, June 30, he heard that the temperature outside had reached a scorching 96 deg F. Quickly he put some fat in his frying pan, laid it on the pavement outside his flat, and as soon as it melted, added an egg. In an instant he

had a fried egg for his lunch.

While the world's eggheads meet and worry over how to save fuel during the current energy crisis, John, whose spasticity went undiagnosed for 30 years, has come up with the answer ready made. Out of the frying pan you might say.

. . . Anyway, he's certainly given the phrase 'eating out' a new slant.

Who knows—if the heat-wave continues the streets of London may be paved with pots and pans, their contents gently cooking, instead of gold.

Well, it's food for thought, isn't it?

## Teenage 'gems' at Lancaster training centre

MR John Whittaker, a painter and decorator of Lancaster, has written a heart-warming letter to his local paper in praise of the spastic teenagers he met while working at the Society's Lancaster Training Centre.

'When I started there 18 months ago,' he writes, 'I had no knowledge whatsoever of spastic teenagers. I have worked all over the country in my time, seen many things and met many people from all walks of life but none have given me half the pleasure those youngsters have at the centre.'

'Everyone is a gem. They may be handicapped, some badly, but what they lack in one way they make up for in guts . . . But their biggest problem is to get themselves accepted by members of the general public.'

'They don't ask for pity but they do need to make friends, and they make lovely friends for anyone who will take the trouble to get to know them. I should know after 18 months and my only regret is that I have missed a great deal of pleasure in not having got to know spastics years ago.'

'If members of the public would stop and speak to any of them for a few minutes they would get a nice surprise. They are in fact more normal than lots of youngsters who consider themselves normal yet go round beating up old people and smashing public property.'

The Lancaster trainees, preparing for work in industry, could hardly enter their first jobs with a better testimonial than Mr Whittaker's letter.

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